

## Message Text

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44  
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 DRC-01 /162 W  
----- 033240

R 050820Z NOV 73  
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1671  
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1068

AFDROUGHT

DAKAR FOR WOOD, FFPO, ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: PL-480 EMERGENCY GRAIN

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 763

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION GIRM GRAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND USE FUNDS GENERATED THROUGH SALES PL-480 AND OTHER EMERGENCY GRAIN SUPPLIES INTENDED FOR BACKGROUND USE BY WOOD, FFPO, RDO DAKAR, IN PREPARATION FOR AUDIT TEAM. SEE REFTEL FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND.

1. BEGINNING IN LATE 1972, GIRM INSTITUTED SIMPLE YET EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF GRAIN RATIONING AND DISTRIBUTION. TRANSPORT TO INTER-IOR FROM PORT OF ENTRY (ROSSO OR NOUAKCHOTT) IS HANDLED BY MILITARY USING GOVT TRUCK FLEET OR PRIVATE TRANSPORTERS. DISTRIBUTION BASED ON ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, WITH REGIONAL GOVERNOR SETTING FORTH HIS NEEDS BASED ON POPULATION ESTIMATES AND SEVERITY OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS. FINAL DECISION ON TONNAGE ALLOCATED TO EACH REGION IS MADE BY GIRM DROUGHT RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR (MINHEALTH). ALLOCATION WITHIN EACH REGION IS HANDLED BY MILITARY-TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION-POLITICAL PARTY SECRETARY TRIUMVIRATE, WHO CONTROL RATIONING SYSTEM AND DECIDE UNCLASSIFIED

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UPON FREE VERSUS PAID DISTRIBUTION. LOCAL PREFECT OR DEPUTY

GOVERNOR AND POLITICAL PARTY SECRETARY OR THEIR DESIGNATED DEPUTY  
INTERVIEW HEADS OF FAMILY AND ISSUE COLOR-CODED RATION CARDS:  
E.G. BLUE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION AND RED FOR PAID DISTRIBUTION.  
THESE OFFICIALS MUST AGREE THAT RECIPIENT CANNOT AFFORD PAY  
FOR GRAIN. OTHERWISE, RECIPIENT MUST PAY 15 CFAF PER KILO.  
SAME TEAM ALSO DECIDES HOW MUCH GRAIN EACH FAMILY IS ENTITLED  
TO PER MONTH. RULE OF THUMB HAS BEEN 15 KILOS PER MONTH PER  
ADULT WHEN AVAILABLE.

3. ONCE RECIPIENT IS ISSUED RATION CARD, HE MUST APPLY TO  
PREFECT OR DEPUTY FOR CHIT ENTITLING HIM TO AMOUNT OF GRAIN  
NOTED ON RATION CARD. HE PRESENTS THIS CHIT AND HIS RATION  
CARD TO MILITARY OFFICER OR SENIOR NCO AT DISTRIBUTION CENTER.  
OFFICER ACCEPTS CHIT, MARKS RATION CARD ACCORDINGLY AND ISSUES  
GRAIN RATION. CHIT IS EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO NOUAKCHOTT VIA  
REGIONAL CAPITAL ALONG WITH ACCOUNTING FORMS FILLED OUT BY  
MILITARY AT EACH DISTRIBUTION CENTER. MILITARY AT EACH CENTER  
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOUNTING CLOSELY FOR GRAIN RECEIVED AND  
DISBURSED. WHEN TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE, DISTRIBUTION IS MADE  
TO NOMAD ENCAMPMENTS AND SMALL VILLAGES.

4. TO DATE, GIRM HAS BEEN SELLING ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF ALL GRAIN  
DISTRIBUTED. PROCEEDS FROM SALE ARE PLACED IN SPECIAL DROUGHT  
EMERGENCY FUND AT NATIONAL TREASURY CONTROLLED BY MINHEALTH.  
OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO FUND INCLUDE BUSINESSES WHO ARE EXPECTED  
KICK IN ONE PERCENT OF THEIR YEARLY TURN-OVER AND CIVIL SER-  
VANTS WHO MUST CONTRIBUTE ONE DAY'S SALARY PER MONTH. PROCEEDS  
FROM FUND ARE USED ONLY FOR DROUGHT RELATED EXPENDITURES, FOR  
INSTANCE: THE PURCHASE OF TRUCKS, SPARE PARTS AND GASOLINE FOR  
TRANSPORT OF GRAIN, PAYMENTS TO PRIVATE TRUCKERS WHO SUPPLEMENT  
GOVT GRAIN TRANSPORT EFFORT, PURCHASE OF WATER TANK TRUCKS TO  
SUPPLY NOMADIC ENCAMPMENTS, PURCHASE OF WATER SYSTEM AND WELL  
EQUIPMENT, PURCHASE OF SEEDS ETC.

5. TO DATE, THIS SYSTEM HAS WORKED REMARKABLY SMOOTHLY,  
WITH LITTLE BLACK MARKETEERING IN EVIDENCE. IN EFFECT, GIRM HAS  
CREATED A GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY IN THE GRAIN TRADE. IT DIRECTLY  
DISTRIBUTES EMERGENCY GRAINS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RICE, WHICH  
IS IMPORTED AND MARKETED BY A GOVERNMENT-OWNED CORPORATION,  
SONIMEX. THIS MONOPOLY WILL, OF COURSE, BEGIN TO BREAK DOWN  
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WITH THE ARRIVAL OF NEWLY HARVESTED GRAINS ON THE MARKET BEGIN-  
NING THIS MONTH. ESTIMATES FOR N94;3 5 4,-&3 \*49. 30 OO 40  
PERCENT OF NORMAL, LEAVING A SHORT-FALL OF SOME 100,000  
METRIC TONS TO BE FILLED THROUGH THE RATIONING SYSTEM.

6. ONE POTENTIAL PROBLEM FOR OUR AUDITORS DOING END USE CHECKS  
IS THAT AT NO POINT, ONCE DONOR SHIPMENTS RECEIVED AT PORTS  
OF ENTRY, IS THERE ANY FURTHER CITATION OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

NOTE ALSO US BILATERAL GRAIN DELIVERIES ONLY BEGAN REACHING  
ROSSO IN LATE OCTOBER.MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**From:** NOUAKCHOTT  
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**Type:** TE  
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